



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/938,056	08/23/2001	Youlin J. Li	7103/205	1652
757	7590	05/18/2004	EXAMINER	
BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			NGUYEN, GEORGE BINH MINH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3723	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/938,056	LI ET AL.
	Examiner George Nguyen	Art Unit 3723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 15-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 15-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of Applicant's amendment filed on March 15, 2004.

Claims 15-25 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perlov et al.'6,086,457 in view of Togawa et al.'6,413,154.

With reference to Figs. 19-25, col. 32, line 18, to col. 34, line 26, Perlov discloses the claimed invention including: a) a first CMP polisher 50a; b) second CMP polisher 50b; b) a plurality of slurry suppliers 5236a-c which are interchangeably supplied to polishers 50a-c. However, Perlov is silent about which slurry suppliers is supplying oxidizing-free medium and which slurry supplier is supplying oxidizing medium.

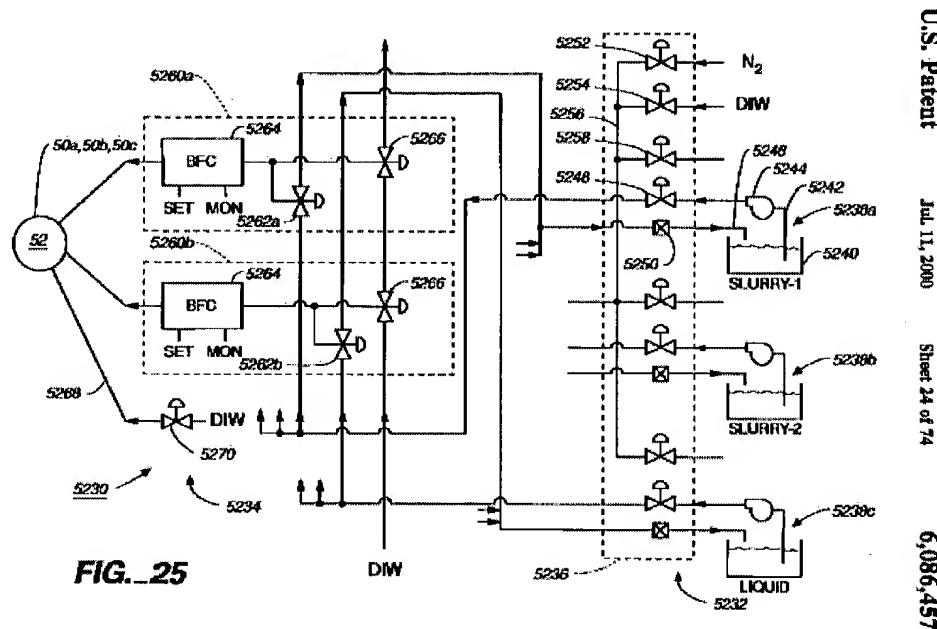
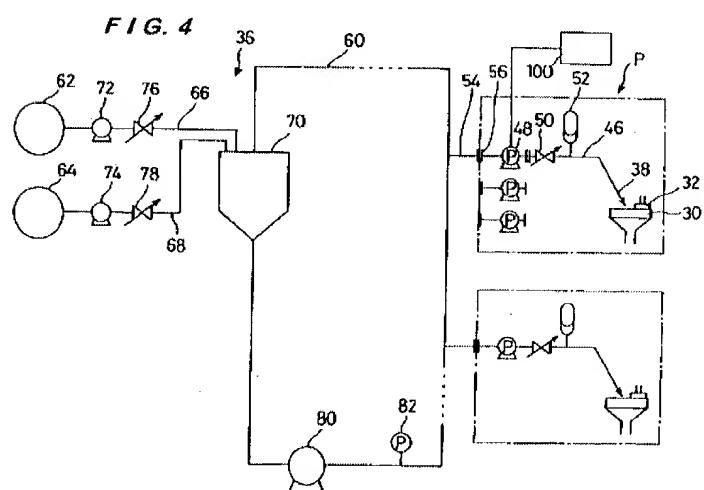


FIG. 25

U.S. Patent
Jul 11, 2000
Sheet 24 of 74
6,086,457

With reference to Fig. 4, col. 3, line 49 to col. 4, line 3, Togawa teaches that stock solution may include an acidic, alkaline or neutral solution containing abrasive particles such as silica-gel, depending on the nature of the workpiece, and dilution liquid is normally deionized water containing no harmful impurities.



U.S. Patent
Jul 2, 2002
Sheet 4 of 4
US 6,413,154 B1

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the Perlov apparatus with the teaching of employing different stock solutions with oxidizing liquid or oxidizer-free liquid as taught by Togawa to suit the polishing apparatus for optimum performances, depending on the nature of the workpiece.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed March 15, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument that the combined references do not teach the sequence of delivering oxidizer free medium prior to delivering oxidizer medium to wafer, in accordance with MPEP 2114 under the heading "**Manner of operating the device does not differentiate apparatus claim from the prior art**", a claim containing "a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus" if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claims.

Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647. In MPEP 2114, under the heading "**Material or Article Worked Upon by Apparatus**", the manner or method in which the claimed machine is to be utilized is not germane to the issue of patentability of the machine itself, In re Casey, 370, F.2nd 576, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967). Thus, the 103 rejection which teaches all the structural limitations set forth in the claims is believed to be proper.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

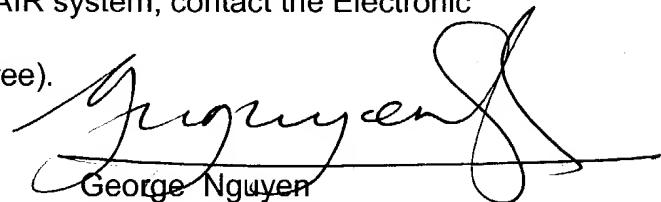
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-308-0163. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday/630AM-300PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 703-308-2687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3723

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

GEORGE NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER



George Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3723

GN – May 14, 2004